

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, we have held over 50 town hall meetings and forums on health care reform in our district. Recently, we held one in The Woodlands with a panel of doctors to talk about health care. One of them was Dr. Peter Shedden, a Canadian-born neurosurgeon, who practices in The Woodlands. He was trained in Canada, is very complimentary about the way they trained physicians. He shared his experiences.

He told us how his father died after he was refused kidney dialysis, even as the disease entered the acute phase, because he was over 70 years old. He told us, "You've got to know somebody" to get to the front of the line. He said, "There are no second opinions in the Canadian system . . . After age 70, if you get sick, you're done."

Because of the long waiting lists, he told us ER doctors are forced to make a quick evaluation of whether or not someone is "salvageable" when they come in the door. He said, "Within 48 hours, you'd better show you are going to improve; otherwise, your breathing tube is taken out and you move on . . . because there is nowhere for you to go." He also said many patients come from Canada to Texas to seek his treatment.

So before we go to a national, government-run system, I have one question for those proponents of that bill: When was the last time you went to Canada for your health care?

CONSTITUENT HEALTH CARE
SURVEY RESULTS

(Mr. MCKEON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I held a town hall meeting in my district. It was widely publicized. We had a great turnout. We had about 1,200 people there. This is a district that was won by President Obama 49-48 percent, even though I'm a Republican, and I just thought it would be interesting to tell the other side what my constituents think just in case they're listening.

Do you support the health care reform plan proposed by President Obama and the congressional Democrats? Yes, 12 percent; no, 81 percent.

Overall how would you rate the quality of health care in this country? Excellent, 27 percent; good, 46 percent; fair, 11 percent; poor, 11 percent.

Do you believe the Federal Government has a responsibility to ensure health care coverage for all Americans? Yes, 15 percent; no, 65 percent.

Do you support the creation of a government-run public insurance option to

compete with private insurance? Yes, 15 percent; no, 71 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I think at least in my district the American people have spoken loudly and clearly that they don't want this Democrat government-run plan.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. AUSTRIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, included in the Democrats' health plan are massive cuts to Medicare Advantage that could result in a loss of health care for millions of seniors.

In my State of Ohio, this isn't good. Cuts to Medicare Advantage will have an exceptionally harmful impact to seniors in areas that I represent in Ohio, rural areas, forcing many seniors into a one-size-fits-all, government-run health care plan.

The CBO also said the Democrats' health care plan will increase seniors' Medicare prescription drug premiums by 20 percent over the next decade.

It is time that Congress listen to our constituents, listen to the American people, and have an open, bipartisan debate on health care reform.

THE DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE
PLAN: WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD IT

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Robert Samuelson is a long-time economics columnist for The Washington Post. He is considered to be a very middle-of-the-road writer, neither liberal nor conservative.

In yesterday's Post, he wrote a column entitled, "Public Plan Mirage." Mr. Samuelson wrote that the public option "is mostly an exercise in political avoidance: It pretends to control costs and improve access to quality care when it doesn't."

He wrote that it is a mirage because it uses "free market rhetoric to expand government power" and added that the public plan "would probably doom today's private insurance."

The so-called opt-out provision is a mirage, too, because it does not allow people to opt out of paying for the program. No State could really opt out, because its citizens would then be paying medical bills for people in other States without receiving any benefits in return.

Medicare and Medicaid have both cost about 10 times more than was predicted. This new health care plan will also cost many times more than is predicted now. We simply cannot afford it.

□ 1530

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, a \$1.5 trillion government takeover of our health care system is not the answer. People were not even consulted about this. When I was home in August, physicians, patients, doctors, providers were not informed. The stakeholders were not even told about the Obama health care plan before it came out. This is not the answer.

And people are suffering right now. Our economy is not doing too well. People are losing jobs. And an \$818 billion tax increase on small business is not the way to reform our health care system. It is the wrong approach.

Republicans have a better way. We want people to have choice. One thing the Republicans want, we want people with preexisting conditions to get coverage and we want health insurance to go down, but we want to make sure that the bureaucrats don't get in the way of the doctor-patient relationship. That is what this plan does. There are 31 bureaucracies in place, bureaucracies and czars between you, the patient, and the doctor. That is the wrong approach.

We don't need an Obama health care plan. We need one that gives choice. We need one where people have an option to have a relationship with their doctor, and we need one that doesn't tax small business, especially right now when people are suffering and the economy is not doing that well.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Senate majority leader announced his decision to push health care legislation with a public option, better known as government control. He said, "We've spent countless hours over the last few days in consultation with Senators."

What the Senate majority leader did not say was that these negotiations took place behind closed doors with the media and American people shut out. Recent polls show when the American people have the facts, they oppose the Democrats' proposals by a wide margin.

During his campaign, then-Senator Obama promised he would, "have all the negotiations around a big table" and "televised on C-SPAN" to "allow people to stay involved in this process."

Democratic leaders have failed to be open and candid with the American people about the decisionmaking process. The public deserves to have all of the facts regarding a health care plan that would raise premiums and cut benefits.